



Title: Practical Living: Caring For Each Other

Scripture: James 5:13-20

Date: 07292018

Bible Version: NKJV

BOTTOM LINE: As followers of Christ, we need to be focused on those around us.

Vs. 13

Is anyone among you suffering? - James turns his attention to those who are suffering. He provides an exhortation for Christians to care for one another.

Let him pray - To the one who is suffering. James says to pray.

When we are going to difficulty in our lives, remember, it's far easier to complain. Our first reaction should be to pray.

Let him sing psalms - To the one who is cheerful let him sing!

We need to have an attitude or gratitude for what God has done for us.

Vs. 14

Is anyone among you sick? - James addresses those who are sick.

Call for the elders of the church - James says that if you are sick, to let the elders know. So many of us deal with things each and everyday that we keep to ourselves.

The hesitancy of people to ask for or to seek prayer from the leadership in such circumstances is a true mystery. - Guzik

Prayer is powerful.

Anointing with oil - This anointing with oil was used as an emblem of the Holy Spirit's presence. It's a reminder that God is with you. We also see that oil is used medicinally (Luke 10:34).

There are two streams of healing: prayer and medicine. But it's the same God who works through both streams. Medicine does not heal. Prayer does not heal. God heals. - Courson

Vs. 15

And the prayer of faith will save the sick - If we consider the entire verse, we can conclude that James is more than likely referring to ultimate resurrection and not a particular illness. He speaks of being forgiven.

Even if our prayers do not bring about the healing we desire, there is something wondrous that happens when we commune with God through prayer.

The best approach in praying for the sick is to pray with humble confidence that they will be healed, unless God clearly and powerfully makes it clear that this is not His will. Having prayed, we simply leave the matter to God.- Guzik

Vs. 16

Confess your trespasses to one another - James encourages the believer to confess our trespasses to one another. The word for confess means to acknowledge openly and joyfully.

Be quick to confess and to ask for forgiveness. Sin wants nothing more than for you to be isolated from other believers.

Pray for one another - As believers we have the opportunity to lift each other up in prayer. We have an opportunity to come before the creator of the universe and pray on behalf of each other. How incredible is that.

The effective, fervent prayer... - James tells us that effective, fervent prayer avails much. The idea we get from the original language is to bring forth power. We are to pray strong prayers.

It is offered with a lukewarm attitude that virtually asks God to care about something that we care little about. - Guzik

If we want have an effective, fervent prayer life, we first have to stand in the righteousness of Jesus.

Vs. 17-18

Elijah - James points us to the example of Elijah. He was known as a man of prayer. His prayers impacted the weather.

With a nature like ours - James makes a connection here for his audience. Elijah did some amazing things through prayer. Notice that he was not above us. James says he has a nature like ours.

Two things that happened because of Elijah's prayer:

1. Fruit was produced
2. God received the glory.

We can be people of prayer like Elijah.

Vs. 19

If anyone among you wanders from the truth - The original idea behind this was to stray away. James says 'If anyone among you'. This speaks to those who were professed followers of Christ.

Reasons We Start To Wander:

1. We start going back to the old things.
2. We start hanging out with the old crowd.
3. We stop spending time in the Word

Someone turns him back - James indicates something pretty amazing about our walk with the Lord. God can use people like us to impact others around us.

This shows us that God uses human instruments in turning sinners back from the errors of their ways. God does not need to use such human instruments, and sometimes He does not. - Guzik

God makes amazing things happen everyday with simple tools (that's us).

Vs. 20

He who turns a sinner - James speaks to the one who would confront and be used by God to turn a sinner away from the error of their ways.

There is a blessing for the one who loves his brother enough to confront him from the error of his way. - Guzik

For those of us who have wandered away, there is hope. Restoration is possible.

For those of us who have a brother or sister wandering away we have to take action. It starts with prayer.

July 29th, 2018

Discuss

Dig Deeper



Practical Living: Caring For Each Other
James 5:13-20

3D Guide

DO.

BOTTOM LINE: Before you say a word, what you do and how you act communicates much more to others than you think.



1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?

DISCUSS.



1. Do you find it easy to pray for others or not?
2. Do you let others know how they can pray for you? Why or why not?
3. James says in Vs. 19-20 that we should have a focus and a heart for those who have wandered away. Have you ever talk with someone about their wandering away or has someone every take with you about you wandering away ? Was this helpful?

DO.



Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try a the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on blueletterbible.com or with their app.



Parents & Kids

TAKE **HOME**

DATE: **July 29th, 2018**

Bible Story: "Jesus Faces Temptation" (Luke 4:1-13)

1. Jesus went into the wilderness where he fasted for forty days. The Bible tells us that Jesus was tempted. What does it mean to be tempted? Who tempted Jesus?
2. The devil tried to challenge Jesus. He told him if he was really the Son of God that he would turn the stone into what? (Bread) Do you remember what Jesus said to the devil? (Man shall not live on bread alone)
3. The devil offered to give Jesus authority over all the kingdoms of the world if he only did what? (Worshipped the devil) Of course Jesus refused. What did Jesus say that he remembered from the scriptures? (Worship the Lord your God and serve him only)
4. Even Jesus memorized scripture to help him in difficult times. Do you have a favorite verse that you like to recall when you are troubled or need reassurance?

Memory Verse: "Be good to me, your servant, so that I may live to obey your word. Open my eyes so that I can see all of the wonderful things in your teachings." (Psalm 119:17-18)

